

Nebraska Public Schools Under Supervision of Women



FORTY-FOUR women hold the important office of county superintendent of schools in the state of Nebraska, thus enjoying what was long considered the special privilege of men as to office-holding in the great field wherein the public schools exercise their influence. These women officeholders draw salaries ranging from \$1,000 to \$1,800 a year, the latter amount being drawn by Superintendents Jessie B. Prytle of Gage county and Mrs. E. B. O. Williams of Saunders county. Superintendents Mary E. Foster of Cass and Abbia M. Newberry of Knox draw \$1,600 a year, while eight others draw \$1,400 a year, and fifteen get \$1,300. Eight are paid a per diem of not less than \$5 for all time actually given to the work in the sparsely settled counties.

That these women are successfully discharging the duties devolving on a county superintendent is proven by the fact that many of them have been re-elected from two to four times by the voters. The four-time winner in the list is Mrs. Genevieve Richmond of Keith county. The women superintendents in Cass, Chase, Cheyenne, Clay, Cuming, Hall, Valley, Wayne and York counties have been chosen for third terms. Thirty-one in the list are serving a second term, which would seem to indicate that the voters of the school districts of Nebraska give preference to trained administrators of school affairs regardless of sex. The office of superintendent of schools in the ninety-two counties of the state is now held almost equally by men and women, the men having only a shade the best of it. In the office of the state superintendent of public instruction the women outnumber the men, having an assistant superintendent, a head secretary and six assistants; besides two members of the board of examiners for state certificates. Of course, in the actual work of teaching the women outnumber the men probably in the ratio of six to one.

Stipend Has Been Increased

In the case of the county superintendents, it is rather interesting to note that an impression is prevalent among the state teachers that a law passed at the last session will have the effect of bringing more men into the race for this office. The law in question provides for more liberal compensation for county superintendents, and this is expected to make the place attractive to men holding teaching certificates. Up to this time well trained, competent men could get more money for their work in cities and towns than in looking after the rural schools. It must be said, in this connection, the recent elections did not give any strong evidence of the desire for a change in Nebraska counties already having women superintendents.



As a result of the voting in November, men will succeed women superintendents in only seven counties—Burt, Hitchcock, Johnson, Kimball, Nuckolls, Perkins and Scottsbluff. Women will succeed men

in nine counties—Boyd, Dakota, Fillmore, Frontier, Harlan, Knox, Lincoln, Pierce and Sioux. Thus the women candidates were successful in holding their own, and a little better. It is generally conceded that where they set themselves seriously to the task they prove campaigners worthy of any man's best effort.

This is not hard to account for, since a clever woman has a great many opportunities to impress her personality on the school community even more than a man. Her duties take her into every section of the county where a school is located, and in her travels she meets more of the mothers having children in school than a man would. It can easily be understood, too, that she gets closer to the teachers, since the rural schools are almost entirely taught by women.

The duties of a county superintendent are multi-

farious and almost never ending. There is all the routine of the office to be attended to, which is no small chore, even with an assistant, which very few superintendents have. A great many blanks are handled and distributed through the county superintendent's office, numerous reports have to be made out, examination papers passed on, and a hundred and one details kept in hand.

It is the field work, visiting the schools and supervising their conduct and management, that consumes the larger part of the superintendent's time. Besides traveling on trains, much driving has to be done, as every school should be visited at least once a year, to comply with the state law. In the compact counties, like Douglas and others in the eastern section of the state, the superintendents find it possible to visit their schools several times a year. In many of the larger counties, espe-

Roster of Women Superintendents

Following are the counties having women superintendents, with their postoffice address:

Banner—Mrs. M. M. Beilan, Harrisburg.
Boone—Hannah C. Johnson, Albion.
Box Butte—Delia H. Reed, Alliance.
Boyd—Mabel K. Haddell, Butte.
Brown—Emma Burritt, Ainsworth.
Cass—Mary E. Foster, Plattsmouth.
Chase—Leocia Fletcher, Imperial.
Cherry—Cora Thacker, Valentine.
Cheyenne—Edith H. Morrison, Sidney.
Clay—Edith A. Lathrop, Clay Center.
Cuming—Emma R. Miller, West Point.
Dakota—Margaret A. Murphy, Homer.
Dawes—Carrie L. Munkres, Chadron.
Deuel—Vera L. Yockey, Chappell.
Dundy—Lorne L. White, Benkelman.
Fillmore—Alice Jennett, Geneva.
Franklin—Ruth Erfman, Bloomington.
Frontier—Ruby P. M. Larson, Stockville.
Gage—Jessie B. Prytle, Beatrice.
Hall—Dorothea Kolts, Grand Island.
Harlan—Mrs. Mattiene Bragg, Alma.

Holt—Minnie B. Miller, O'Neill.
Keith—Mrs. Genevieve Richmond, Ogallala.
Knox—Abbia M. Newberry, Center.
Lincoln—Cleo Chappell, North Platte.
Logan—Mabel McKlaney, Taylor.
McPherson—Clara Nichols, Iryon.
Morrill—Margaret McCutcheon, Central City.
Morrill—Cora A. Thompson, Bridgeport.
Nance—Lucy Conard, Fullerton.
Nemaha—L. Nemaha Clarke, Auburn.
Pawnee—Lulu S. Wolford, Pawnee City.
Phipps—Huldah Peterson, Holdrege.
Pierce—Lettie Scott, Pierce.
Polk—Amelia Rasmussen, Osceola.
Red Willow—Anna McDonnell, McCook.
Saunders—Mrs. E. B. O. Williams, Wahoo.
Sioux—Mary J. Fenske, Harrison.
Thomas—Inez Oakes, Theford.
Valley—Eva B. Shuman, Ord.
Wayne—Mrs. Elsie Littell, Wayne.
Webster—Gertrude L. Coon, Red Cloud.
Wheeler—Edith Bowler, Bartlett.
York—Alice Florer, York.



cially in the west, southwest and northern sections, if every school is visited once a year the superintendent has been right busy.

Superintendents have the sole supervision of certain schools in the counties and exercise a partial supervision over a good many more, in the smaller cities and towns having a local superintendent. It is up to them to see to it that every rural school is kept as nearly as possible at the high standard set by the excellent school laws of Nebraska. In the case of a certain class of rural schools, the superintendent fills the role of principal, too. This duty

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